

GANDHI): (a) to (c) The lists of Scheduled Castes notified for States/UTs, as per provision under Article 341 of the Constitution, are State/UT specific. As such, persons belonging to a particular State, who have migrated to another State are not entitled to be recognized as Scheduled Castes in the latter State. Any proposal for modification in the list of Scheduled Castes for a Particular State is processed as per approved modalities in consultation with the concerned State Government, Registrar General of India and National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. No specific proposal as indicated has been received from the Government of Maharashtra on this subject.

Atrocities against women and weaker sections

† 2473. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the cases of atrocities against women and weaker sections of the society have increased in the country;
- (b) if so, the steps Government are taking to equip these classes with arms; and
- (c) whether Government would consider to give them reservation in police forces to empower these classes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI

MANEKA GANDHI): (a) During the year 1998 and 1999 total number of cases of atrocities against women were 1,31,475 and 1,31,332 respectively *i.e.* a decrease of 0.1%. Similarly cases of atrocities against Scheduled Castes registered are 25,638 and 25,093 respectively during 1998 & 1999 *i.e.* a decrease of 2.1%. Cases of atrocities against Scheduled Tribes registered are 4276 and 4450 respectively during these two years *i.e.* an increase of 4.1%.

- (b) A provision has been made under the Rule 3 (v) of the

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Rules, 1995 for providing arms licenses to the victims of atrocities.

(c) Reservation in services including Police and Central Para Military Forces is already being provided to SCs and STs as per existing guidelines.

Vacant Government Land to SC/ST landless families

2474. SHRI VEN'BLE DHAMMAVIRIYO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government initiated action to distribute vacant Government land to the landless families of SCs/ STs during 1991-92, as recommended by Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee; and

(b) if so, the total land distributed to the SCs/STs in pursuance of the said recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Distribution of land (cumulative) to SCs and STs in accordance with the implementation of Land Ceiling Laws for the quarter ended September, 2000, as reported by the Ministry of Rural Development is as under:

	Area in acres	No. of beneficiaries
SC	17.48 lakhs	19.78 lakhs
ST	7.73 lakhs	8.15 lakhs

Implementation of Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995

2475. SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the concerns expressed by various High Courts and Supreme Court on implementation of the